30th September 1955]

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) Yes. On 24th February 1955 the Assistant Collector, Malappuram, seized ten cart-loads of firewood which were being removed from the Unnamalai Coupe No. 4 in the unsurveyed Malavaram in Attapadi.

(*b*) The Assistant Collector returned the firewood seized by him to the owner as it had been cut under a permit issued by the Collector.

Extension of Madras Harbour

* 2615 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state with reference to answer given to clause (*a*) of question No. 1581 on 23rd March 1955 whether the Madras Harbour is proposed to be extended up to the Iron Bridge near Fort St. George?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : As the question regarding the extension of the Madras Harbour, which is a major port, relates to a matter with respect to which the executive power of the State does not extend, it is not constitutionally proper to raise the question in the State Legislature. It is therefore not proper for the Government to answer the question, in the State Legislature.

Teachers serving as village post-masters

* 2616 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the number of elementary school teachers acting as village post-masters on 1st July 1954?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The number of teachers acting as village post-masters on 1st July 1954 is not available. The number as on 31st March 1954 was 1487.

High mortality rate of calves

* 2617 *Q.*—SRI V. MUTHU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the mortality rate of calves in the State is very high;

(*b*) whether the Government have examined the reasons therefor; and

(*c*) what steps they propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) It is not correct to say that mortality rate of calves in the State as a whole is high, though it may be slightly above normal in some urban areas.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative. The high mortality of calves noticed in towns and urban areas, may be said to be more often due to starvation and neglect, on the part of the owners rather than by any natural causes or diseases. This neglect is again due to the fact, that the bulk of the milch cattle in the towns are in the